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FROM: Winston Hsu, PATENT AGENT, REG. NO. : 41,526

SERIAL NO.: 10/604,586

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: CHEP0025USA

SUBJECT: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TOTAL PAGES: 12 PAGES (INCLUDING COVER PAGE)

Winston Hsu 2004/03/12

CHEP0025USA0_D1_1

PTO/SB/87 (08-00)

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APPLICATION NUMBER: 10/604,586

PAPERS INCLUDED:

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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| (1) Transmittal Form | 1 PAGE |
| (2) Fee Transmittal | 1 PAGE |
| (3) Information Disclosure Statement | 8 PAGES |

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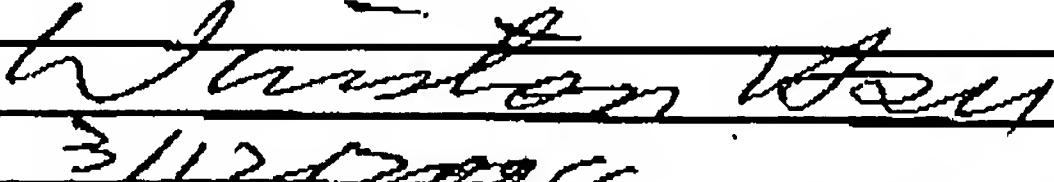
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CHEP0025USA

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below)
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Winston Hsu, Reg. No.: 41,526
Signature	
Date	3/12/2004

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ 0.00)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/604,586
Filing Date	07/31/2003
First Named Inventor	Hsu-Chu CHIEN
Examiner Name	N/A
Art Unit	2861
Attorney Docket No.	CHEP0025USA

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

Check Credit card Money Order Other None

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Deposit Account Number 50-0801
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The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

- Charge fee(s) indicated below Credit any overpayments
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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001 770	2001 385	Utility filing fee	
1002 340	2002 170	Design filing fee	
1003 530	2003 265	Plant filing fee	
1004 770	2004 385	Reissue filing fee	
1005 160	2005 80	Provisional filing fee	
SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 0.00)			

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Independent Claims	Multiple Dependent	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
			-20**	=	
			-3**	=	

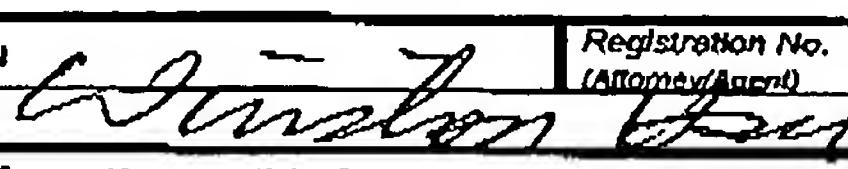
Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
1202 18	2202 9	Claims in excess of 20
1201 86	2201 43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203 290	2203 145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204 86	2204 43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205 18	2205 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent
SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 0.00)		

** or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051 130	2051 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052 50	2052 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053 130	1053 130	Non-English specification	
1812 2,520	1812 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804 920*	1804 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805 1,840*	1805 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251 110	2251 55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252 420	2252 210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253 950	2253 475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254 1,480	2254 740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255 2,010	2255 1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401 330	2401 165	Notice of Appeal	
1402 330	2402 165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403 290	2403 145	Request for oral hearing	
1451 1,510	1451 1,510	Petition to Institute a public use proceeding	
1452 110	2452 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453 1,330	2453 865	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501 1,330	2501 685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502 480	2502 240	Design issue fee	
1503 640	2503 320	Plant issue fee	
1460 130	1460 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807 50	1807 50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806 180	1806 180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021 40	8021 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809 770	2809 385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810 770	2810 385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801 770	2801 385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802 900	1802 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	
Other fee (specify) _____			
*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid			
SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ 0.00)			

(Complete if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Winston Hsu	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,526	Telephone	886289237350
Signature				Date	3/12/2004

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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

5 Applicants: Hsu-Chu Chien, Chih-Cheng Chang
Filing Date: 07/31/2003 Art Unit: 2861
APPL No.: 10/604,586 Docket No.: CHEP0025USA

10 Title: THERMAL PRINTER AND METHOD FOR TRANSFERRING DYES ON
MULTIPLE DYE BLOCKS ONTO MEDIA

15 To: Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Subject: Information disclosure statement Under
37C.F.R. \$1.56.

20

Dear Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance
with the duty to disclose information material to patentability
25 under 37 C.F.R. \$1.56. The applicants wish to make of record
each of the documents listed on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08.
It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initials each
of the cited references on the form and that it be made of
record in the application and that a copy of the initialed
30 form be sent to the applicants with the next communication
from the Examiner.

Since the IDS is filed before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, consideration of the information disclosure statement is hereby requested according to 37C.F.R. §1.97(b). The prior art patent contained in the 5 information disclosure statement was cited in communications from the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office on Jan. 16, 2004. The applicants sincerely hope that the Examiner can consider each of the items contained in the information disclosure statement.

10

According to the requirement set forth in 37C.F.R. §1.98 and M.P.E.P. 609, the applicants are submitting copies of the cited reference (Taiwan Patent No. 283685) and a concise explanation of the relevance in this application hereinafter.

15

The purpose of TP No. 283685 is to simplify an ink sheet conveying and to increase the identification information carrying by the ink sheet without increasing the number of sensors by optimizing the locations of the identification marks 20 on the ink sheet and improving the accuracy of detecting the identification marks. In view of Fig. 2, 80 is a sensor block comprising a plurality of sensors, and an ink sheet 40 comprises an identification mark 4g, previous color detector 4h and following color detector 4j. The mark 4g and both the ink colors 25 protruding and extending are read at once. The identification marks of the sheet of a plurality of rows (identification mark 4g and second identification mark 4k) are individually read, and ink sheet information is obtained by the combination of the read results to control a printer.

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Claim 6 of the present invention is repeated below.

6. A thermal printer comprising:
- a thermal print head;
- a transferring ribbon comprising a plurality of color blocks, each of which comprises at least one dye block;
- 5 a logic unit capable of performing the following steps:
- (a) distributing grayscales of dye blocks in each of a plurality of color blocks to be printed as an image on a medium according to grayscales of the image to be printed on the medium and a predetermined printing rule;
- 10 (b) controlling the print head to transfer the dyes of the dye blocks in the plurality of color blocks to the medium to generate the image according to the distribution in (a); and
- 15 (c) controlling the print head to transfer dyes of an overcoating block of a last color block of the plurality of color blocks to the medium; and
- a control circuit capable of controlling operations of the thermal printer.
- 20
- Compared with TP No. 283685, the thermal printer disclosed in claim 6 comprises a logic unit capable of distributing grayscales of dye blocks in each of a plurality of color blocks to be printed as an image on a medium according to grayscales of the image to be printed on the medium and a predetermined printing rule, controlling the print head to transfer the dyes of the dye blocks in the plurality of color blocks to the medium to generate the image according to the distribution, and controlling the print head to transfer dyes of an overcoating block of a last color block of the plurality of color blocks to the medium. However, in TP No. 283685, it neither has a means to distribute grayscales of dye blocks according to grayscales

of the image to be printed on the medium, nor controls the print head to transfer the dyes of the dye blocks in the plurality of color blocks to the medium to generate the image according to the distribution. Therefore, there is nothing about processing 5 of an image to be printed and transferring dyes of the dye blocks in a plurality of color blocks on the ink sheet that is mentioned in TP No. 283685. It is therefore believed that the thermal printer of claim 6 of the present invention is substantially different from the teaching disclosed in TP No. 283685.

10

Claims 1 of the present invention is repeated below.

1. A method for a thermal printer, the method comprising:

15

(a) distributing grayscales of dye blocks in each of a plurality of color blocks to be printed as an image on a medium according to grayscales of the image to be printed on the medium and a predetermined printing rule;

20

(b) transferring the dyes of the dye blocks in the plurality of color blocks to the medium to generate the image according to the distribution in (a); and

25

(c) transferring dyes of an overcoating block of a last color block of the plurality of color blocks to the medium;

wherein the thermal printer comprises a transferring ribbon comprising a plurality of color blocks, each of which comprising at least one dye block.

30

Claim 1 of the present invention is a method claim corresponding to claim 6 of the present invention. The method in step (a) and (b) are not taught in TP No. 283685, either.

Since the prior art patent TP No. 283685 is substantially different from the claim 1 and claim 6 of the present application, and all other claims are dependent on either claim 1 or claim 5 6, the cited art fails to read on any of the claims of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

10

Winston Hsu Date: 3/12/2004
Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete If Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/604,588
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	07/31/2003
		First Named Inventor	Hsu-Chu CHien
		Art Unit	2861
		Examiner Name	N/A
		Attorney Docket Number	CHEP0025USA
Sheet	1	of	1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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